



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:DV178-03
September 23, 2003

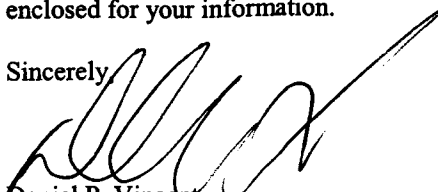
TO: Ralph Goode, Chairman, Flathead Reservation Fish & Wildlife Board, 4717 Hillside Rd., Charlo, 59824
CSKT Fish & Wildlife Program, PO Box 278, Pablo, 59855
Sid Rundell, PO Box 162, Big Arm, 59910
MFWP Commission
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Director's Office, Legal Unit, Lands, Wildlife
Mt Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Bldg., Helena 59620
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Joe Gutkoski, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th, Bozeman, 59715
Polson City Library, PO Box 820, Polson, 59860
Lake County Commissioners, 106 Fourth Ave. E, Polson, 59860
Rep. John Brueggeman, 321 Lakeview Drive, Polson, 59860-9317
Rep. Joey Jayne, 299 Lumpury Road, Arlee, 59821-9747
Sen. Mike Taylor, Box 152, Proctor, 59929-0152

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area Pheasants Forever land acquisition.

There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore, the draft becomes the final EA. A copy of the Decision Document is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,


Daniel P. Vincent
Regional Supervisor

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Enclosure

c: USFWS Bison Range, Dave Wiseman, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, MT 59824
Big Sky Upland Bird Association, PO Box 9005, Missoula, 59807-9005
Ducks Unlimited, Great Plains Region, 2525 River Road, Bismarck, ND 58503-9011
Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute, PO Box 39, Charlo, 59824
Joe Ball, University of Montana Wildlife Coop Unit, 909 S Ave W, Missoula, 59801
MT Dept. of Transportation, PO Box 201001, Helena, 59620-1001

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MISC.*

Pheasants Forever Property Acquisition

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Polson Outdoors, Inc., Matt Bishop, PO Box 1432, Polson, 59860-1432

Warren Illi, Flathead Wildlife, PO Box 4, Kalispell, 59903

Flathead Audubon, PO Box 9173, Kalispell, 59904

Mountain Audubon, #1 Second Ave E, Suite C-179, Polson, 59860

Five Valleys Audubon, PO Box 8425, Missoula, 59807

Last Chance Audubon, PO Box 924, Helena, 59624

Lower Flathead Valley Community Foundation, Inc., William H. Edelman, 1050 Spring Creek Road, Ronan, 59864

Vic McAllister, CAC, 333 Light Road, Polson, 59860

Rob Shrider, CAC, 204 Hwy 93 S, Ronan, 59864

Greg Schafter, President, Pheasants Forever

**Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Pheasants Forever Land Acquisition**

September 23, 2003

The proposed project is to purchase in fee title 70 acres of wetland and upland habitat owned by the Mission Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever based out of Ronan, Montana. This property is located immediately adjacent to the MFWP Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area. The project would maintain and protect important nesting habitat for upland birds and migratory waterfowl. The project will also maintain and enhance existing wetlands located on the property. In addition to habitat issues, the project will provide for additional recreational use days in the area by the public, mostly in the form of upland game bird/migratory waterfowl hunting and birdwatching. The funding for this project (\$68,000) will come from MFWP hunting license dollars (state duck stamp and Habitat Montana).

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and public comment received, all of which were favorable, I find that Alternative B (fee title acquisition) to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The Final Environmental Assessment and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region One. Please direct requests and questions to:



Daniel P. Vincent, Regional Supervisor
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

Date

9/23/03